

Water Quality Protection Division



Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico Region 6 Update

Subject: **Water Quality Division Update # 42**
 Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico

Date: June 29, 2010

Reporting Period: June 28, 2010 1300 – June 29, 2010 1300

Forecast

The nearshore oil forecast created by NOAA on 6/28/10 at 2100 CDT for 6/29/10 at 1200 CDT (Figure 1) indicates that the main part of the oil slick will be east of Louisiana with a portion of the slick south of the Delta extending westward. Winds are forecast to be 14-22 knots from the southeast through Thursday. Shoreline impacts may occur on the barrier islands of Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida Panhandle. With the sustained SE winds, oiled shoreline impacts also threaten Breton Sound, the Chandeleur Islands and the Mississippi Delta. The strong southeast winds may bring oil ashore between Barataria and Cailou Bay and a strong westward current that is developing may carry the oil to the west faster.

Monitoring and Assessment

- Continuing to coordinate with the REOC Environmental Unit on the review of incoming water and sediment quality monitoring data, including results from water samples analyzed for dispersants and sediment toxicity testing results.
- Attending regular meetings and calls with Region 4, HQ, & REOC.

Drinking Water

- Drinking water intakes, public drinking water wells, and domestic wells have not been impacted by the oil sheen to date.
- EPA Region 6 is providing the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) daily situation report as well as data summaries as they become available.
- EPA Region 6 continues to coordinate closely with the LDHH on all drinking water issues.

Data Management – Mapping Efforts

- Updated the Shoreline Coastal Assessment Team (SCAT) and the oiled CWPPRA projects maps (Figures 2 and 3).

NPDES

- Participating in discussions with OW and R4 on options for modification of existing oil and gas general permits in the Gulf of Mexico.
- NPDES Permits and TMDL Branch continues to be available to provide technical assistance as needed.

Coastal Programs

Louisiana Large-Scale Coastal Barrier Plan:

- The Region 6 and Coast Guard helicopter inspection flight over the sand berm and related delta area containment measures has been scrubbed due to weather.

Corps Emergency Authorizations for Coastal Protection Features:

- No new requests for emergency authorizations have been received.

OW Ecological Impact Analyses:

- The Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium released the 2010 forecast of the summer hypoxic zone for the northern Gulf of Mexico, predicting that it will cover from 19,141 to 21,941 km² (avg. 20,140 km²) of the bottom of the continental shelf off Louisiana and Texas. If the predictions hold true, it will be the fifth largest hypoxic occurrence since systematic mapping began in 1985. As reported, the effects of the oil spill in relation to the hypoxic zone are undefined, but potentially significant.

Corps Navigation Maintenance Dredging:

- The Corps has notified EPA today that some contamination of the EPA dredged material ocean dumping site for the Mississippi River Southwest Pass has been reported. Consequently, dredges have stopped utilizing the site and are temporarily disposing at the Head of Passes Disposal Site. A conference call was held including R6 and OW and follow up calls with the Corps District and headquarters are planned. In the meantime, an EPA (R6, R4, OCPD) discussion paper on ocean dumping suitability issues in areas impacted by the oil spill has been reviewed by Corps headquarters (Joe Wilson) and additional coordination will follow on dredging and disposal options.

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)

- It is anticipated that there may be re-oiling of several shorelines in the vicinity of CWPPRA projects located in the Barataria and Terrebonne basins (Figures 2 and 3).

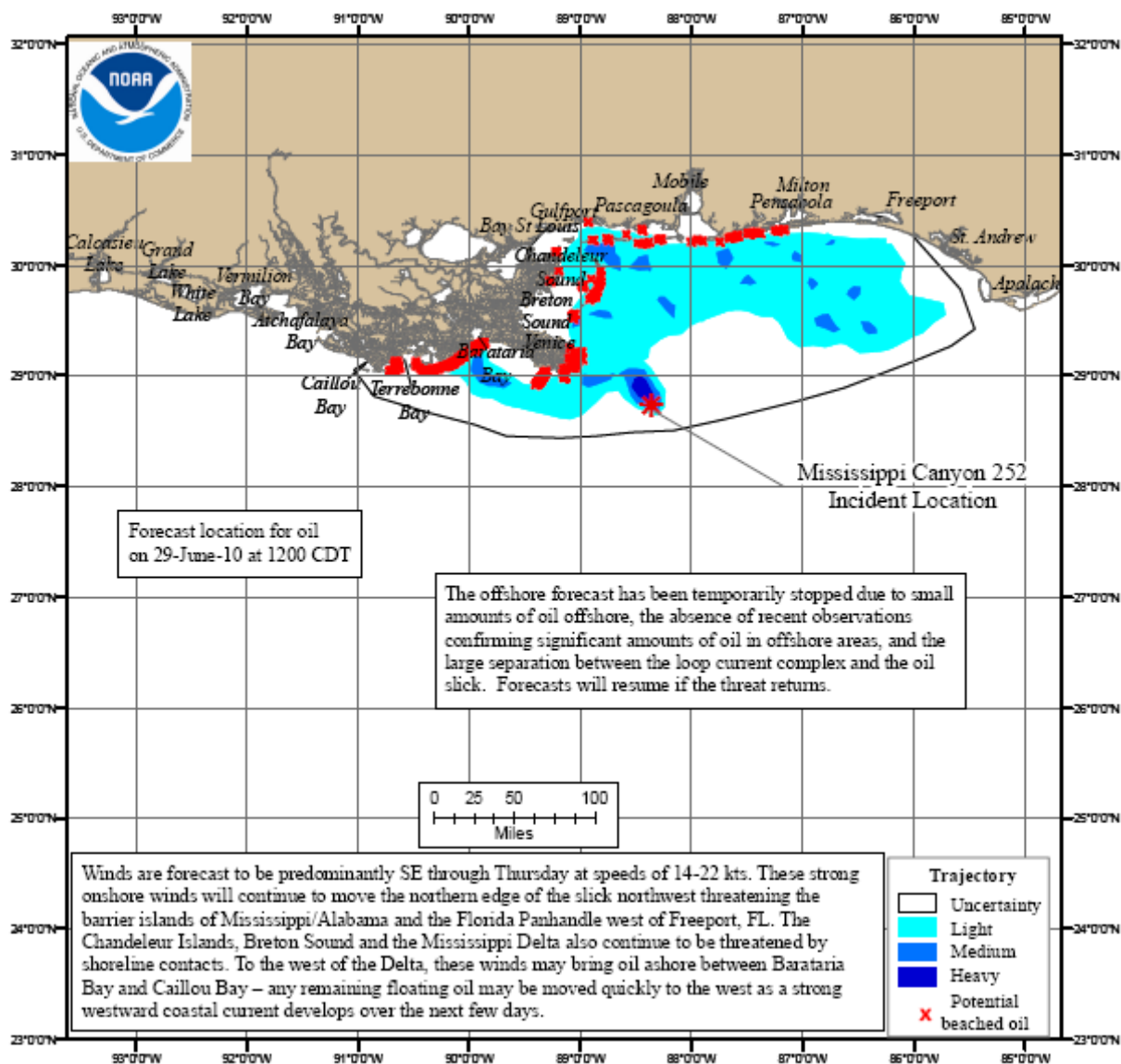


Figure 1 NOAA nearshore oil slick trajectory forecast for 6/29/10.
<http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/doctype/2931/53979>

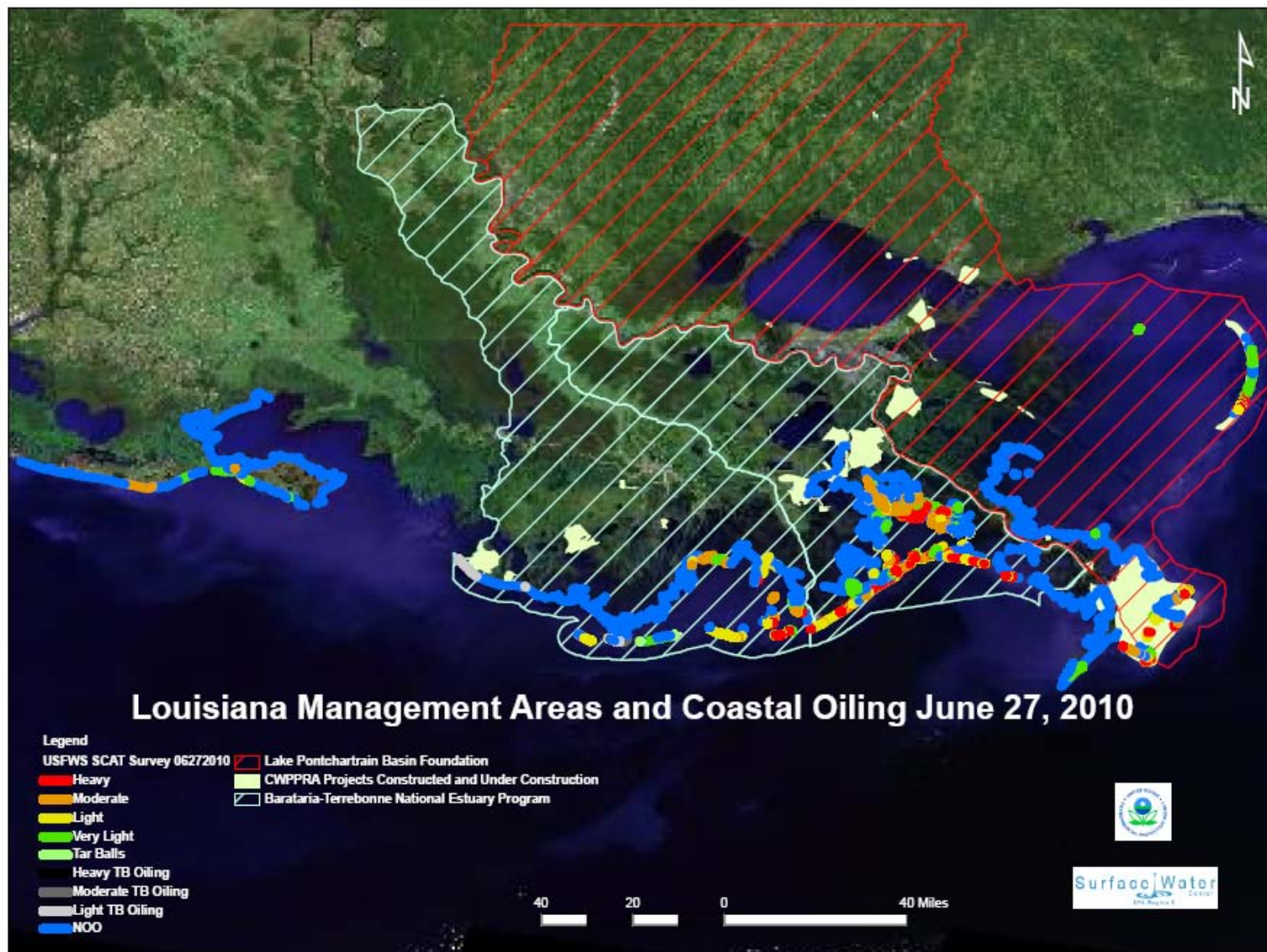


Figure 2 Shoreline impact assessment map including Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, Lake Ponchartrain Foundation and CWPRA project boundaries



Figure 3 Assessment of CWPPRA projects that may have oiled shoreline impacts.